

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-49 (Canceled).

50. (New): A method of deleting email messages sharing a common trait over a public switched telephone network independently of email system capabilities, comprising:

operating a unified messaging system that is operatively coupled to an email server, wherein the unified messaging system is operatively coupled to a telephone by the public switched telephone network, wherein the unified messaging system is configured to process voicemail and email messages;

playing a first message from the unified messaging system over the public switched telephone network on the telephone;

receiving a command from the telephone instructing the unified messaging system to delete all messages that have the common trait with the first message;

deleting the first message with the unified messaging system;

retrieving a second message from the email server, wherein the second message includes an email that has the common trait with the first message;

determining with the unified messaging system that the second message has the common trait with the first message; and

deleting the second message from the email server in response to said determining.

51. (New): The method of claim 50, comprising:
determining a third message from the email server does not have the common trait with the first message after said deleting the second message; and
playing the third message on the telephone after said determining the third message from the email server does not have the common trait with the first message.

52. (New): The method of claim 50, wherein the first message includes a voicemail message.

53. (New): The method of claim 50, wherein the first message includes an email message.

54. (New): The method of claim 53, further comprising converting text of the first message to speech prior to said playing the first message.

55. (New): The method of claim 50, wherein said receiving the command from the telephone includes receiving a touch-tone signal from the telephone.

56. (New): The method of claim 50, wherein the common trait includes a common message type.

57. (New): The method of claim 50, wherein the common trait includes a common subject.

58. (New): The method of claim 50, wherein the common trait includes at least one word common to the first message and the second message.

59. (New): The method of claim 50, wherein said deleting the second message includes deleting the second message without playing the second message on the telephone.

60. (New): The method of claim 50, wherein the unified messaging system is further configured to process facsimile and pager messages.

61. (New): The method of claim 50, further comprising:
receiving a series of touch tones corresponding to a particular search term from the telephone;
generating an index of words that are contained in messages stored in the email server in accordance with a degree of similarity to the search term;
sending the index of words to the telephone; and
wherein said receiving the command from the telephone includes receiving a selection of at least one of the indexed words from the telephone.

b1 62. (New): The method of claim 50, further comprising sending a voice menu list of command options to the telephone.

63. (New): The method of claim 50, further comprising storing new messages in the email server.

64. (New): The method of claim 50, wherein said deleting the first message includes deleting the first message from the email server.

65. (New): A method, comprising:

operating a unified messaging system configured to process email and voicemail messages, wherein the system is operatively coupled to a telephone by a public switched telephone network;

transmitting a first message with the unified messaging system over the public switched telephone network to the telephone;

receiving a command from the telephone instructing the unified messaging system to delete all messages that have a trait in common with the first message;

deleting the first message with the unified messaging system;

determining with the unified messaging system that an email message on the email server has the trait in common with the first message; and

deleting the email message from the email server in response to said determining without transmitting the email message to the telephone.

66. (New): The method of claim 65, wherein the first message is an email message.

67. (New): The method of claim 66, wherein said deleting the first message includes deleting the first message from the email server.

68. (New): The method of claim 66, further comprising converting text of the first message to speech prior to said transmitting the first message.

69. (New): The method of claim 65, further comprising:
receiving a series of touch tones corresponding to a particular search term from
the telephone;

generating an index of words that are contained in messages stored in the email
server in accordance with a degree of similarity to the search term;

sending the index of words to the telephone; and

wherein said receiving the command from the telephone includes receiving a
selection of at least one of the indexed words from the telephone.

70. (New): An apparatus, comprising:

an email server;

a unified messaging system operatively coupled to the email server, wherein
the unified messaging system is operable to process voicemail and email messages,
wherein the unified messaging system is operable to process communications with a
telephone over a public switched telephone network;

the unified messaging system being operable to play a first message over the
public switched telephone network on the telephone;

the unified messaging system being operable to receive a command from the
telephone instructing the unified messaging system to delete all messages that have the
common trait with the first message;

the unified messaging system being operable to delete the first message in
response to the command; and

the unified messaging system being operable to delete an email message from
the email server in response to determining that the email message has the common
trait in common with the first message.

71. (New): The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the first message includes a
voicemail message.

72. (New): The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the first message includes an email message.

73. (New): The apparatus of claim 70, further comprising:
the public switched telephone network; and
the telephone operatively coupled to the unified messaging system over the public switched telephone network.

74. (New): The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the unified messaging system is configured to convert text to speech.

75. (New): The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the first message includes a facsimile message.

76. (New): The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the common trait includes a combination of different trait types.
